Appraisal of facilities at airports

3825. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the desirability of making an overall appraisal of the facilities at the Indian Airports as compared to international standard, management practices and customer relationship to identify the areas of deficiency in the wake of recent escalator tragedy at the IGI airport;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government would consider the question of setting up a high powered committee for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the wake of the recent escalator accident at Indira Gandhi International Airport, the High Level Inquiry Committee which was set up to inquire into the circumstances leading to the accident and fix responsibility for lapses has also been entrusted with the study of the following aspects of airport functioning and give recommendations for systemic improvements in respect of:—

(i) airport maintenance system;

(ii) coordination between different agencies functioning at the airport and their effectiveness in the context of overall airport management;

(iii) the response systems in case of an accident/emergency;

(iv) functioning of various facilities from the point of view of overall safety of passengers especially during emergencies;

(v) sensitisation of personnel of different departments/organisations while reacting to various kinds of emergencies;

(vi) any other area of overall functioning of major airports; and

(vii) security functions at the airports.

The Committee is likely to submit its final report by 30th June, 2000.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.